

Terry Statement on House Cyber Security Efforts

Washington D.C. - Congressman Lee Terry (NE-2) today released the following statement on the urgency and necessity of securing American cyber information. His comments come in the wake of the House of Representatives' passage of the Cyber Information Sharing & Protection Act, H.R. 3523, 248-168.

"I've immersed myself in cyber security over the last couple of years. I've been on two House cyber security task forces. I've met with industry leaders in all of the critical network infrastructure areas. All of the information and input that I've gathered has a common thread. American cyber defenses must rely on ongoing communications between the private sector and the government and they must be flexible.

"Critical infrastructure industries want to know if threats exist and the specifics of the threats. They understand that every day they're under attack, but they simply don't have the information on these threats that the government has. So, ongoing communication between American defense agencies and the private sector is essential.

"Our cyber defenses must be flexible. We can't lock cyber security into a government agency, because it will take years for government agencies to form guidelines, yet alone alter them. Hackers can and will quickly sidestep the defenses of a massive, slow government regulator. The least government interference in this process will give American cyber-defenses the flexibility that they require.

"The Cyber Information Sharing and Protection Act allows the simple communication of specific threats from government to the private sector, and it utilizes the government's assets without

crushing the whole effort under government. This is necessary legislation to secure American infrastructure," said Terry.